



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

Volume XIX-98

Number 28

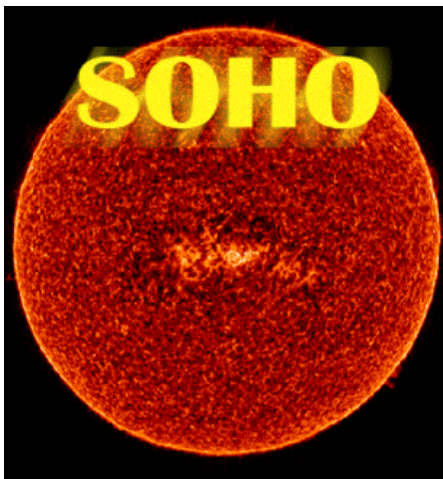
August 3, 1998

SOHO Spacecraft Located With Ground-Based Radar

Ground-based radio telescopes have been able to detect the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft and have found it rotating slowly near its original position in space, a potentially important step toward possible recovery of direct communications with the spacecraft.

Radio contact with SOHO, a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA, was interrupted on June 24, an event under review by a joint ESA/NASA investigation board.

With the encouragement of Dr. Alan Kiplinger of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Environment Center in Boulder, CO, researchers at the U.S. National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC) in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, used the facility's 990-foot diameter radio telescope to transmit a signal toward SOHO on July 23. The 230-foot dish of NASA's Deep Space Network in Goldstone, CA, acted as a receiver, locating the spacecraft's echo and tracking it using radar techniques for more than an hour.



Preliminary analysis of the radar data, which is ongoing, indicates that SOHO is still in its nominal halo orbit near the so-called "L-1" Lagrangian point in space, and is turning slowly at a rate of roughly one revolution per minute. Staff members of NAIC and the Deep Space Network, in close cooperation with ESA and NASA, are continuing to analyze the radar data to extract more precise information on SOHO's location and motion, which in turn could help in future recovery efforts, as SOHO's solar panels turn toward the Sun.

ESA and NASA engineers also are continuing their efforts to re-establish radio data communication with the spacecraft, encouraged by the radar measurement of a slow spin rate, which suggests minimal structural damage has occurred.

More information on SOHO, including mission status reports, is available on the Internet at: <http://sci.esa.int> or at <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/>

Wallops Shorts.....

Pegasus Launch

The Pegasus XL vehicle was successfully launched from the Orbital Sciences Corp. L-1011 aircraft on Aug. 2 at 12:23 p.m. The mission was to launch eight ORBCOMM communication satellites into low Earth orbit. The satellites were successfully launched into an 825 km circular orbit. The L-1011 aircraft with the Pegasus vehicle arrived at Wallops on the evening of July 29.

NASA Selects Quick Ride Contractor

NASAGoddard Space Flight Center has awarded an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract known as "Quick Ride" to Final Analysis, Inc. of Lanham, MD. The contract to procure excess space aboard commercial satellites for scientific and engineering missions has a maximum value of \$49 million and a minimum ordering amount of \$1,000. It will allow for the placement of firm, fixed-price task orders within 30 days.

NASA's intent is for Quick Ride to conform to commercial industry practices. Government-provided instrumentation and/or payloads will be expected to conform to accommodations onboard the commercial satellites in order to prevent any impact to commercial integration and launch schedules or primary payloads.

X-34 Completes Critical Milestone

The first wing assembly for NASA's X-34 technology demonstrator has completed qualification tests and has been shipped to the prime contractor, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Dulles, VA, where it has been mated to the X-34 test article under construction there.

The newly qualified X-34 wing assembly, intended for flight, has been installed, initially, on a full-scale X-34 test article at Orbital. The test article will be used for X-34 verification and certification. This first wing assembly will ultimately fly aboard one of two flight vehicles also under construction at Orbital.

X-34 project personnel from Marshall Space Flight Center visited Wallops on July 24 to discuss the availability of resources such as tracking equipment as well as using Wallops as a potential abort and landing site.

Fellow Goddard Employees,

July 27, 1998

Last week, Washington was again marked with tragedy. The deaths of Officer's Chestnut and Gibson at the United States Capitol were grim reminders that freedom comes at a price....sometimes a very high price. These two brave men died in the line of duty protecting the public and fellow federal employees this time employees of the legislative branch.

Our hearts go out to their families and friends. We, in our own small way, share their grief. It is at times like these that the federal family should contemplate the contributions of all of the Officers like Chestnut and Gibson who, on a day-to-day basis, are prepared to pay the ultimate price so that each of us can enjoy the benefits of living in a free democracy. They do nothing less than make it possible for us to do the work and enjoy the lives we do as NASA employees. Each one of them, then, is part of the NASA extended family and as such we salute them.

I am sure that each of you will mark this week of mourning in your own way with a thought or action appropriate to the circumstances. I'd like to suggest that you include in your plans some small measure of acknowledgement of the contribution of our own security workforce here at Goddard.

If you're like me, I'm sure that you often take for granted or even on occasion become impatient with the practices and the procedures that are in place to enhance our security. As a tribute to Officer's Chestnut and Gibson, let's not allow that to happen this week.

Join me in thanking all of our security people, civil servant and contractor, here at Goddard, throughout NASA and the Federal Government, for the contributions they make to all of our achievements.

Al Diaz

Upcoming Courses

Risk Management & Fault Tree Analysis

September 14 - 18, 1998
8 a.m. - noon
Wallops Flight Facility

Risk Management & Fault Tree Analysis is a brief review of fundamental risk management concepts. It provides an in-depth understanding of the management doctrine and presents the two most often used models of successful applications within organizational structures.

Target Audience:

Recommended for managers and engineers whose work involves recognizing and managing system risks.

Employees who would like to attend this course need to respond before August 15. For a complete course description or to register call Joe Drawdy, x1884.

Contact Sherry Kleckner, x1204 for information on the following courses:

Managing Personal Growth

Aug. 18-19, 1998
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grammar and Punctuation Review

Sept. 28-30, 1998
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fish Fry
All-You-Can-Eat



August 14
4:30 p.m.
Building F-3

Fried Fish, Corn-on-cob, String beans, Hush Puppies, French Fries, Melons

\$7 per person. Children 12 and under - \$3.50

Tickets available from Dave Smith, x1316 or Nicole Turner, x1168 and at the Rocket Club.

Name That Tune

August 12
7 p.m.
Building F-3

Prizes Will Be Awarded

Contact Jan Neville, x1526 or Bob Tittle, x1244



Tailgate Sale
August 19
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Flag Court Parking Lot

Clean out your attic, garage and closets — get rid of your junk.....let someone else enjoy it for awhile. Gives you a chance to make big bucks to buy brand new stuff!



Flextime and leave restrictions apply. Contact Terry Ewell, x1133

Host an Exchange Student

The Salisbury Rotary is looking for a family to host male high school student (senior) from Argentina. The student will be in the states for the 1998/99 school year and will be staying with three different families for periods of three months each. The student speaks English and is very interested in electronics and would like to learn more about it while he is in the U.S. The Rotary Club will contribute some money to help cover costs. Families with children younger or older are preferred, but not required. The three-month period is still open.

Contact Phil Eberspeaker, x1268 for more information.

Back To School
Shopping Trip
to Jamaica, NY

Saturday, Aug. 22, 1998

Tentative Bus Departure Points*
Four Corners Plaza, Onley
Arcadia High School
Roses Plaza, Pocomoke
Salisbury Giant Plaza

*Subject to change or addition as needed.

Tickets: \$35 - must be purchased by August 14

Contact: Sandra Banks @ x2526, Rebecca Beach @ x1559 or Lisa Johnson @ x 1151

Come shop 'til you drop!!!

IDP Workshop

Individual Development Planning (IDP) is a process for identifying and prioritizing work experiences, and training and other kinds of activities which can contribute to an employee's development and job performance. It is critical to preparing an employee for new job duties, especially in an organization undergoing change.

A workshop will be held on Aug. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Building F3 for employees who are interested in doing an IDP. It will include a review of the process and completion of a series of worksheets that result in a draft plan.

Gary Dzurec, Human Resources Development Office in Greenbelt will direct the workshop.

Take Steps to Protect
Your Feet

Your feet are your most important means of transportation. The average pair of feet take 8,000 to 10,000 steps a day. The foot consists of some 26 bones laced together with many layers of ligaments, tendons and muscles.

Proper care begins with the footwear you select. Buy shoes that fit. The right shoe can help keep your feet from getting hurt. Try not to wear the same pair of shoes two days in a row so perspiration in the shoes can evaporate thoroughly. You also should change socks or stockings daily and wear them only once between washings. Use different socks for sports activities.

At home, don't walk around the house barefoot. Wear safety shoes when doing chores or working on hobbies, such as cutting grass, gardening, working on cars and doing home repairs.

Wear the right athletic shoe for every sport. There are shoes designed for a variety of sports. When fishing, wear waterproof footwear to protect your feet.

At the beach, wear sandals and beach thongs to protect your feet from hot sand and sharp objects.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees.

Editor
Photography
Printing

Betty Flowers
Optical Section
Printing Management Office